

Cocoanut Grove Village Council

MINUTES



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Courtney Omega
Hank Sanchez-Resnik

*Miami City Hall
3500 Pan American Drive
Miami, FL 33133*

July 29, 2019

6:30 PM

www.cocoanutgrovevc.org

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Pledge of Allegiance
4. House Keeping
 - a. Approve June minutes
5. Public Comments
6. New Business
 - a. **Housing and Zoning Committee: 2451 Tigertail Avenue tree appeal.** Motion to withdraw appeal passes 9-0. Details of a particular project seeking a waiver made known only by the appeal process. 2451 Tigertail is a remodel/expansion of 800SF on a 6300SF with 30% lot coverage remaining. 22 trees on property with 3 (one dead) being removed. Two Pigeon palms 2" DBH suggested replacement trees and then 7K to Tree Trust Fund.

CHAIR COMMENTS that, additional, voluntarily submitted information as an appendix to the waiver would probably lessen the number of appeals. If code is followed then difficult to uphold an appeal. Root issue is the system by which the waiver is sought.

MEMBER SUGGESTS the fines are not steep enough to discourage development.

CHAIR SUGGESTS to create a task force of list of things the City and code could do better. Notices should include more information so appeals can be avoided. Codified, tabular chart would help clarify fines and planting requirements. City and County use different guidelines, DBH and canopy coverage respectively. Suggests that the Council keep dialogue open with arborists strategies to manage tree canopy better. Dialogue with City to develop ways to manage money and process better.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Resident expressed the lack of follow through by the city when tree violations are reported to code compliance. Lack of enforcement.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Encourage developer to have a more robust replacement tree, a 2" pigeon palm as well as a larger mitigation tree (2" to a 4")

PUBLIC COMMENT: Dade Heritage Trust representative: Environmental preservation is part of the mission. Residents have come to DHT concern about canopy loss. DHT has formed the "Canopy Coalition" to gather standing science and law to promote the idea that trees are a big picture of resiliency planning. Recent roundtable of Miami stakeholders met to develop strategies to preservation canopy. Goal of coalition: Affect policy change by strategic outreach. Steps: Understand how City work within its tree ordinance and and how people work around it. Develop media platform to show benefits of trees to engage residents. Make people who control

policy understand benefits of trees. Join together the other conservation/advocacy community groups for a stronger voice. Action Plan: Raise money, gather scientific and legal research, media campaign, monthly task force meetings. Have people in power create a policy environment where current tree ordinance can be interpreted and enforced with a “trees first” approach.

MEMBER COMMENT *Re-Leaf* is a City backed initiative for a plant identification and inventory platform. Citizen science network, using crowdsourcing to build a photo inventory map of trees in Coconut Grove. **Council will send an eblast out for the 9/28/19 meeting at the Kampong.**

MEMBER SUGGESTS that the energy of trees is also available for issues like gentrification.

7. Discussion Items

- a. **Transportation and Mobility Committee:** Scooter pilot Program update. Expect a report from City by October, 2019. Data is being analyzed by City IT department.
- b. **Housing and Zoning Committee:** CRA update. This is the final extension of CRA to 2047. The West Grove annexation is in the current extension application. County decision to annex West Grove is the next step. If approved then decide goals and funding. Council discussed merits to meet with OMNI stakeholder to present a unified constituency that wants housing over business interests to Dade Commissioner
PUBLIC COMMENT: Get evaluation of budget.
- c. **Transportation and Mobility Committee:** Trolley update. Ridership down 14% since the last day of school. Questionnaire still active online trolleytracker has a link. Commissioner will give an update on the questionnaire at the next townhall meeting.
- d. **Civic, Cultural Life, Parks, & Green Spaces Committee:** Brief update on Kampong/FIU presentation on new center for tropical botany. **Council will host a presentation at September meeting.** Residents opposed to the FIU Botany Center and the university both have legal representation. Goal is to mediate and reduce the gap between the FIU and residents. Regardless which side prevails an appeal and court action is anticipated. Footprint is not increased but SF has increased. The special use of botanical garden is approved a university is not. City must allow a waiver because the use it not allowed.
PUBLIC COMMENT: SF has almost doubled from original plan to the current application.
- e. **Housing and Zoning Committee:** 3034 Grand Avenue reconstruction/tree removal. This is an after the fact permit. Removal of 19 hardwood trees. **Chair to follow up on facts of this removal.**

8. Unfinished Business

- a. **Civic, Cultural Life, Parks, & Green Spaces Committee:** Carrollton Boys School brief update. Withdrew the 7/2 application from the HEPB. Several waivers that were required and not submitted to HEPB. The whole site is not designated, Woodbrine and some ecological features are. There may be some administrative issues that have to be worked through in order to be heard at the September HEPB. Meeting for change of use.

9. Other. Member, Omega stated that she was not representing the Village Council at a recent West Grove groundbreaking of condominiums and that she would recuse herself if ever Metronomic representative came in front of the Village Council.